

## **REMARKS**

### ***Claim Amendments***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 3-6, 8-10, 17, 18, and 21-32 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 9, 10, 17, 18, 24, and 30 have been amended. Claims 14, 33, and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation and/or divisional patent applications drawn to the cancelled subject matter. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. *See e.g.*, page 5, lines 8-10; page 12, lines 1-14; page 16, lines 8-26; and page 17, lines 18-26; Example 1; original claim 6; and Figure 3. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment and submit that the above amendment does not constitute new matter.

### **Statement of Substance of Interview Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b)**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b) and M.P.E.P. § 713.04, Applicants provide a summary of the interview of October 7, 2008. Applicants thank Examiners Carlson and Rooke for agreeing to conduct the interview and appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiners.

During the interview, the Examiners agreed that if Applicants amend claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to recite (1) that the amount of methionine, histidine, and/or glycine is “at least 3 g/L”; and (2) that the byproduct polypeptide comprises “an O-acetylserine residue in place of a serine residue in the atrial natriuretic peptide,” the outstanding rejections would be withdrawn. The Examiners also suggested adding “daltons” to claims 6, 24, and 30.

### ***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph***

Claims 3-6, 8-10, 14, 17-18, and 21-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As discussed during the Interview, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to recite “an O-acetylserine residue in place of a serine residue in the atrial natriuretic peptide,” thereby rendering this rejection *moot*.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 3-6, 8-20, 17-18, 21-31, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by UK Patent Application GB 2 180 539. As discussed during the Interview, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to recite that amount of methionine, histidine, and/or glycine is “at least 3 g/L,” thereby rendering this rejection *moot*.

Claims 3-6, 8-10, 17-18, 21-31, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0170811 (September 11, 2003) Ueda, *et al.* As discussed during the Interview, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to recite that amount of methionine, histidine, and/or glycine is “at least 3 g/L,” thereby rendering this rejection *moot*.

**CONCLUSION**

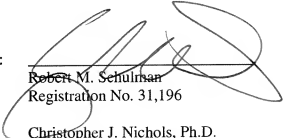
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6, 8-10, 17, 18, and 21-32 are in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that any issues remain after consideration of this Supplemental Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss and resolve such issues.

This response is being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period for reply. Accordingly, no fees are due. However, in the event of that any fees are required to enter this response, or to maintain this application as pending, please charge such fees to the undersigned's **Deposit Account No. 50-0206.**

Respectfully submitted,

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